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Message Text

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42
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 /076 W
---------- 067313
R 072042Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8663
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS CARACAS 4784

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR SREF VE PN US
SUBJ: VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER REAFFIRMS GOV
POSITION ON PANAMA CANAL

1. SPEAKING TO REPORTERS FOLLOWING MAY 6 CABINET MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ, VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM REAFFIRMED THE GOV'S SUPPORT FOR PANAMA IN ITS ATTEMPT TO GAIN SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE PANAMA CANAL. "VENEZUELA'S POSITION REGARDING THE PANAMA CANAL IS VERY FIRM," ESCOVAR SAID. "WE CONDISER THE CANAL TO BE A HUMILIATION NOT ONLY TO PANAMA BUT ALSO TO ALL OF LATIN AMERICA."

2. ASKED ABOUT A REPORTED US PLAN TO SEND SOUTH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES TO LATIN AMERICA, ESCOVAR SAID THE GOV HAD NOT " STUDIED THE PROPOSITION" AND THEREFORE HAD NO POSITION ON THE MATTER.

3. RESPONDING TO RECENT STATEMENTS BY FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ARISTIDES CALVANI, ESCOVAR SAID HE WOULD NOT SHY AWAY FROM A DEBATE WITH CALVANI IN GOV FOREIGN POLICY. ESCOVAR SAID HE BELIEVED "PRESIDENT PEREZ'S FOREIGN POLICY HAS AWAKENED INTEREST AND A GREAT DEAL OF ADMIRATION AS HAS BEEN DEMON-STRATED AT VARIED INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS."

4. ESCOVAR DEPARTS VENEZUELA TODAY, MAY 7, FOR OAS GENERAL
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ASSEMBLY IN WASHINGTON.

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SHLAUDEMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Draft Date: 07 MAY 1975
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Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PFOR, SREF, VE, PN, US, (ESCOVAR SALOM, RAMON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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